

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 520

By Calfee

A RESOLUTION to designate May 2016 as "Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) is a complex genetic disorder that affects approximately one out of every 12,000 live births, affecting females and males with equal frequency and occurring in all races and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, primarily categorized by an insatiable appetite and excessive weight gain, PWS can cause premature death from obesity-related comorbidities, including chronic obstructive sleep apnea and cardiac pulmonary problems; other aspects of PWS include hypotonia, hypogonadism, short stature, cognitive impairment, and behavioral problems; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Prader-Willi Syndrome contributes to a whole host of endocrine disorders, such as diabetes and hypothyroidism; and

WHEREAS, the number one genetic cause of life-threatening childhood obesity, PWS is a complex genetic disorder that requires careful consideration of its unique clinical features; and

WHEREAS, while there is no known cure for Prader Willi Syndrome, early diagnosis and careful management of symptoms can improve the lives of individuals with PWS; and

WHEREAS, in order to bring attention to this rare disease and the need for increased research to find a cure, this General Assembly recognizes May 2016 as "Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we designate May 2016 as "Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month" in Tennessee in honor of those persons suffering from this debilitating disease.